

Unscrupulous employers in this country are luring unskilled foreign workers with the promise of riches—that they can earn 10 times as much or more if they come to work in America. The foreign workers, most of whom come from impoverished backgrounds, are charged fees—sometimes thousands of dollars—to secure these jobs. To cover the upfront expenses many sell their land, their homes, or take out high interest loans. They risk everything with the dream of earning enough money to provide for a better life for themselves and their families.

The reality for these workers stands in stark contrast to the riches and opportunity that was promised. Employers often refuse to pay the workers overtime or alternatively refuse to schedule them for full-time work. They work in unsafe conditions, and are forced to live in squalor. Living in fear and with no ability to speak out about the abuses, workers are trapped in virtual involuntary servitude under sweatshop working conditions, indebted by usurious recruitment fees, paid inadequate wages and too often cheated out of what little they are owed.

The Indentured Servitude Abolition Act of 2007 simply demands that these foreign workers be treated with the respect and dignity that they deserve. The Act requires that the working conditions promised are in fact the working conditions that will exist. We can no longer allow employers to treat foreign workers as commodities—we have a responsibility to ensure that every individual working and living in this country is afforded labor protections and adequate legal safeguards.

#### NEED-BASED EDUCATIONAL AID ACT OF 2007

**HON. LAMAR SMITH**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 29, 2007*

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to join the gentleman from Massachusetts, Mr. DELAHUNT in introducing the “Need-Based Educational Aid Act of 2007.”

Beginning in the mid-1950s, a number of private colleges and universities agreed to award financial aid solely on the basis of demonstrated need. These schools also agreed to use common criteria to assess each student's financial need and to give the same financial aid award to students admitted to more than one member of that group of schools. From the 1950s to the late 1980s, the practice continued uncontested.

In 1989, the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice brought suit against 9 of the colleges that engaged in this practice. After extensive litigation, the parties entered into a consent decree in 1991 that all but ended the practice. In 1992, Congress passed the first exemption to the antitrust laws for these colleges as part of the Higher Education Amendments of 1992. That temporary exemption codified the settlement and allowed agreements to provide aid on the basis of need only, to use common criteria, to use a common financial aid application form, and to allow the exchange of students' financial information through a third party. It also prohibited agreements on awards to specific students.

In 1994, Congress extended this exemption as part of the Improving America's Schools Act. Congress has extended the exemption twice since 1994—in 1997 and 2001. As of May 2006, twenty-eight schools utilized this antitrust exemption. This exemption expires on September 30, 2008.

I believe the current exemption makes sense, and to my knowledge there have been no complaints about it. A recent GAO study of the exemption found there has been no abuse of the exemption and stated that there has not been an increase in the price of college as a result of the exemption. The Antitrust Modernization Commission, which is due to release its final report next week, studied this exemption and found that it provides “limited immunity for limited conduct,” that is, it is narrowly tailored to meet its goals of promoting access to need-based financial aid.

This bill would make the exemption passed in 1992, 1994, 1997, and 2001 permanent. It would not make any change to the substance of the exemption.

The need-based financial aid system serves worthy goals that the antitrust laws do not adequately address, namely, making financial aid available to the broadest number of students solely on the basis of demonstrated need. No student who is otherwise qualified should be denied the opportunity to go to one of these schools because of the limited financial means of his or her family. This bill helps protect need-based aid and need-blind admissions.

The last time a permanent extension of this antitrust exemption was considered by the House it passed by a vote of 414 to 0. I urge my colleagues to support this bill as well.

#### INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO RE-AUTHORIZE THE NEW JERSEY COASTAL HERITAGE TRAIL ROUTE

**HON. FRANK A. LoBIONDO**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 29, 2007*

Mr. LoBIONDO. Madam Speaker, the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail incorporates the very best of what the great State of New Jersey has to offer the rest of the Nation. Established by Congress in 1988, the Trail unifies New Jersey's many scenic points of interest. These points of interest include a wealth of environmental, historic, maritime and recreational sights found along New Jersey's coastline, stretching 300 miles from Perth Amboy in the north, Cape May in the extreme southern tip of the State and Deepwater to the west.

The Trail's area includes three National Wildlife Refuges, four tributaries of a Wild and Scenic River system, a Civil War fort and National cemetery, several lighthouses, historic homes, and other sites tied to southern New Jersey's maritime history. Through a network of themes and destinations, the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail connects people with places of historic, recreational, environmental and maritime interest.

One exciting aspect of the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail Route is its focus on maritime history. There is a rich story to be told about the industries once sustained by the

Delaware Bay, such as whaling, shipbuilding, oystering and crabbing. While we often define our Nation's history through military or political milestones, the Trail will serve to remind visitors that maritime-dependent commerce was a major factor in the growth of the United States.

“Eco-tourism” along the Coastal Heritage Trail has proven to be a huge success. There is an abundant variety of natural habitats and species to be found on the Trail. Whale and dolphin watching have become extremely popular, and bird lovers from throughout the country, and in fact around the world, are realizing what Southern New Jersey residents have known all along: our region is unmatched for observing migratory birds, ospreys and bald eagles.

Today, with the support of the entire New Jersey delegation, I am introducing legislation to reauthorize the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail Route. This legislation would extend the authorization of the Trail to provide additional funding over 4 years to continue the work began in 1988.

The New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail has helped New Jersey residents develop pride, awareness, experience with, and understanding of our coastal resources and its history. This reauthorization will allow the Trail to continue and flourish.

I urge my colleagues in the House to support this legislation.

#### RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF MAYOR GEORGE H. WHITEHURST

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 29, 2007*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize the public service and outstanding achievements of George H. Whitehurst upon his retirement as Mayor of the city of Crestview, Florida.

George Whitehurst moved to Crestview in 1954, where shortly after, he opened the Whitehurst Funeral Home. In 1961, he entered the political arena as Mayor for 12 years. His passion for leadership and continuing love for the community led Mr. Whitehurst to resume his political career as Mayor in 1995.

During his tenure as Mayor, George Whitehurst advocated for increased public safety and economic development. To promote safety and deter crime, Mr. Whitehurst was at the forefront of instituting 2 police substations and a police/fire sub-station. He lobbied for the acceleration of a high rise security lighting installation at Interstate 10 and State Road 85 and the development of an emergency transportation corridor, consisting of a three-mile segment of roadway to provide an alternate emergency evacuation route in times of natural disaster. Under his leadership, a cemetery was restored, a Veterans Memorial Park constructed, and the foundation for the Crestview Library and Community Center established. Mayor Whitehurst launched a downtown revitalization effort, including: new sidewalks, pedestrian crosswalks, shade trees, increased parking, period street lighting, and park benches. There is no doubt in my mind that Crestview is better off because of this man.